

## THE VACATION SCHOOL.

## A Solution to the Problem of Finding Useful Occupation for the Idle Mind or Hand in Mid-Summer.

On Wednesday, June 18, the public schools of the District of Columbia close and 14,728 colored children under High School age will be without school accommodations for over three months. For a few colored parents—those who can afford the rest and quiet of the country or seaside with their children—this is not a very serious question, but as poverty or the nature of their employment forces the vast majority to stay at home, this annual closing of the schools is of grave importance. Each summer brings a period of danger to the morals and health of the children of the poor, especially. Being without playthings or means of entertainment at home and with both parents frequently at work they are forced upon the hot and dirty streets, which to many become a school for crime.

The vacation schools meet the evils of these conditions and overcome them. They are in no sense a continuation of the work of the regular school, and therefore will not endanger the mental or physical condition of the child by additional strain. The following is an extract of a letter received from the captain of a police station by the principal of a Chicago vacation school at the close of the session last summer:

"There is no doubt but that the vacation school has had an influence for the better. The number of complaints from the residents of that locality as to the conduct of children of school-going age has grown considerably less. Probably it would be safe to say that the complaints have fallen off during the six weeks of the summer school this year, as compared to the same length of time last year, about 20 to 30 per cent. As to the number of arrests for milder misdemeanors, I should say by comparison with the same number of weeks last year, that a decrease of about 15 or 20 per cent. will show on our records, that is, of boys ranging in age from ten to fourteen."

Vacation schools will be opened Monday, June 23, at Stevens and Lincoln schools, and will continue six weeks. Work for all grades of a light, but useful and interesting character, will be conducted by skilful teachers of wide experience. The parent of any child desiring admission for the same is requested to notify Mr. F. L. Cardozo, Jr., 2236 Sixth street, Northwest, before Monday, June 16, to that effect, stating name, grade, residence and school.

## LITERARY LORE.

"Twentieth Century Literature," by D. W. Culp, is one of the notable books of the day, and reflects as no other work has attempted on so elaborate a scale, the sentiments of the race's best scholars and thinkers. The book is selling well everywhere, and arrangements are being made to place it on the Washington market.

The annual catalogue of the Tuskegee Normal and Collegiate Institute has been received. It is from the press of the Institute, and its typographical attractiveness is first-hand testimony of the excellence of the printing plant there and the skill of the printers who did the work. The catalogue contains 152 pages of valuable information concerning the school—its courses, fees and resources—together with numerous half-tone engravings of buildings, classes and operating rooms. The pamphlet is one that can be read with pleasure and profit by all.

The June number of the *Southern Workman*, an illustrated magazine published by the Hampton Institute Press, contains several papers and editorials of special interest. Considerable space is devoted to a report of the recent meeting of the Southern Educational Conference held at Athens, Ga.—a report which is somewhat unique in that it contains a broadside of quotations from typical speakers at this important conference, and thus gives its readers an opportunity to form their own impressions. The cover has an excellent portrait of Robert C. Ogden, President of the Conference.

Prof. Kelly Miller contributes a second paper in his study of "The City Negro," which deals with his industrial status; and Mrs. Cranston, a Southern woman who is librarian of the League for Social Service in New York, has an article on "The Housing of the Negro in New York" that is supplementary to the valuable study on the housing of the Negro in the South, contributed to this journal last winter by Dr. DuBois.

An interesting account of the passing of the Indian dances is contributed by Miss Helen Bennett, Superintendent of Schools in Deadwood, S. D., and the important question of irrigation in the Southwest is treated by C. H. Cook.

This number also contains two practical articles on agriculture and a number of letters showing the influence of the Nature-Study Bureau of Hampton Institute on Southern schools. "Cotton Raising in Togoland," in this issue, is an interesting story of the agricultural experiment undertaken by the Tuskegee students who were sent to Africa by the German government.

## AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Rector O. M. Waller, of St. Luke's P. E. Church, is one of those plain-spoken preachers who refuse to gild social vice, and has the courage to call a spade a spade.

Rev. S. L. Corrothers, Galbraith's new pastor, is in no way related to the author of "The Black Cat," who recently achieved unpleasant notoriety at Hackensack, N. J.

Until further notice there will be a singing school session for the young people every Sunday afternoon from 5 to 6 o'clock at Shiloh Baptist church. Prof. Simmons will lead, and Miss Serena Carter will be the pianist. All are invited.

Rev. I. Tolliver, pastor of the Liberty Baptist Church, of this city, preached two great sermons at the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Philadelphia, June 11th and 12th. June 13th, Rev. Walter H. Brooks defended the faith in a brilliant discourse at the same place.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt sent a fine embroidered handkerchief last week to Mrs. Maggie Woodbridge, an active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Pittsburg, Pa., as a contribution to the fair in progress there under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society. The compliment was highly appreciated.

Rev. S. L. Corrothers, the new pastor of Galbraith A. M. E. Zion Church, gave THE COLORED AMERICAN a pleasant call last week. He is a genial gentleman, and is a thoroughly-equipped theologian. He has the bearing of a man who means business, and appears to be one who can get the best results out of an organization. He comes by transfer from the West New York Conference, and from the fine record he left behind, the highest success may be predicted for him here.

A party of representative Washingtonians will go to Baltimore Sunday morning, June 22, to witness the stately ceremonies attending the consecration of Rev. J. Harry Dorsey, who is to take the priesthood orders of the Roman Catholic Church. Father Dorsey is the second colored man in this country to be so ordained, Father Tolton, a third priest, being received while abroad. The Washington delegation will be headed by Dr. W. S. Lofton, a prominent figure in local Catholic circles.

At Bethel A. M. E. Church, Philadelphia, the new "two pastor" system is being tried. It ought to work well, and besides, it should be adopted wherever the membership is too large to be properly served by one man. When a minister plans his financial system, visits the sick, confers with those who wish sympathy or to seek religion, conducts a revival, holds board meetings, officiates at funerals, prepares and delivers his sermons, performs marriage ceremonies, besides attending various minor meetings and aiding many public movements, it is pretty plain that the most energetic and resourceful preacher living will find little time to play. Where congregations are large, the co-pastor idea is the logical way to secure good service by a division of the work.

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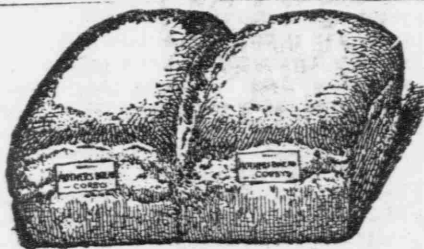
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